

STATE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary – October 21, 2004
St. Placid Priory, Lacey, Washington

9:30 Jeff Kelley-Clarke called the meeting to order.

Beyond Waste Plan – Cheryl Smith

Ecology staff have been working to finalize the Beyond Waste plan, which has involved responding to comments submitted and also developing an implementation plan. Staff is working hard to complete the revisions by about the end of October, or soon after.

The group discussed the following:

- Responses to SWAC comment letter on the draft Beyond Waste plan
- Current System Background Paper
- Implementation of the Beyond Waste Plan

Responses to SWAC comment letter on the draft Beyond Waste plan

Cheryl Smith explained the changes being made in response to the SWAC comment letter (attached to July 04 SWAC meeting notes).

1. In response to the comment about the plan being developed at a time when the state's economy is challenged, language has been added in a few places to acknowledge current economic conditions and potential challenges to implementation. Additional text has also been added about how implementing Beyond Waste is expected to contribute in a positive way to the economy, and that performance indicators will be developed to help track progress toward the economic vitality aspect of the vision.

2. In response to the comment about needing to continue reaching out to more diverse groups to successfully implement actions in the plan, Ecology has developed a communication strategy for the next several months, and the two program managers have been and will continue to contact additional people to talk with them about Beyond Waste and to try to garner more support.

3. In response to the comment about the purpose of the plan, language has been added to help clarify the purpose in the following sections of the summary document:

- Solid Waste Authorities and Local Planning Issues
- Beyond Waste-A Collaborative Approach
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4. In response to the comment about the section on financing for solid waste, a SWAC workgroup (along with some members of the SWAC Beyond Waste Subcommittee) significantly revised the financing sections (both the shorter version in the summary document and also the longer background paper), and all members of the workgroup agreed to the revised versions.

5. In response to the comment about how the plan relates to local solid and hazardous waste plans, clarifying language has been added to the "Solid Waste Authorities and Local Planning Issues" section of the summary document.

6. In response to the comment about paying more attention to "low-hanging fruit," such as paper recycling, additional emphasis on paper recycling has been added to the section on "Recycling and the Technical Nutrient Cycle" in the summary document.

7. In response to the comment about a better description of the waste-to-energy process, additional detail has been added to the section on "Disposal--Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," both in the summary document and also in the long background paper.

8. In response to the comment that the plan should address the important role that financial assurance mechanisms and other tools can play, the financing section workgroup anticipates that this issue will be examined as part of the comprehensive evaluation of solid waste financing needs. Additionally, ensuring compliance with existing financial assurance mechanisms is included in both the disposal and the permitting/corrective action sections of the summary document.

9. In response to the comment about disagreement with the key principle to work toward "less regulation," Ecology has deleted that principle. Two new principles have been added. They are as follows:

Key Principle #1: Incentives, especially financial incentives, are key tools in implementing Beyond Waste

and

Key Principle #2: Achieving the Beyond Waste vision will require a different way of doing business. While regulations are needed, they are not necessarily the best or the only way to achieve Beyond Waste.

Current Solid Waste System Background Paper

After reviewing and discussing the changes made to the plan in response to SWAC comments, the group discussed the background paper on the current solid waste system. A rough draft of the paper had been sent to members before the meeting. The SWAC agreed that the paper is needed and that it should meet the following needs:

- Provide a narrative description of how solid waste is managed in Washington today, a sort of "snapshot."
- The paper should be factual and not contain controversial information
- The paper should not contain any plan recommendations

The SWAC agreed that the rough draft of the paper was not close to being ready for inclusion in the plan, and that some of the data were inaccurate and/or incomplete. After discussing various options, the SWAC agreed that they would like to work on the paper, and that we should take adequate time to ensure that it is complete and accurate. The current system paper will become a part of the Beyond Waste plan documents when it is completed, and a placeholder will be inserted for it.

Cheryl Smith was asked to develop a process for completing the current system paper, beginning in January, when more SWAC members will have time to help with it. The first step will be to send an outline to the SWAC for review. The SWAC will help determine what data and figures are most relevant, and will also help to gather additional data that is needed. E-mail will be used to accomplish as much of this work as possible, but some SWAC meeting time will also be needed.

Implementation of the Beyond Waste Plan

SWAC members reviewed and discussed the draft implementation plan for Beyond Waste.

While many questions were asked, and comments made, the SWAC agreed that the implementation priorities for the first year are ambitious, but seem to be the most important. A few of the comments included:

- There is a need to convey this information in more detail to all of the partners, including a broader group of local governments than has been heavily involved in the planning for Beyond Waste.
- It would be helpful to receive a matrix that indicates which partners are needed for which implementation efforts.
- We need to help facilitate broad cultural change. That is what Beyond Waste is about. We need to craft key messages and get them out to elected officials and others. (Cullen mentioned that this is on his work plan for the upcoming year).

Finalizing the Plan

SWAC members agreed that their concerns about the draft plan have been addressed in the final plan. They also agreed that the implementation plan could go forward, and should be included in the final Beyond Waste plan. The SWAC agreed with finalizing the plan and issuing it.

Updates on soils and e-waste – Cullen Stephenson

Soils: The soils issue continues to be contentious. Ecology has met with 4 of the 5 concerned parties. We have received comments from most of the concerned parties. The message seems to be “you don’t have to regulate every shovelful of dirt”. A facilitated meeting was held October 28. We still hold out hope that we can find a reasonable solution, and we remain committed to working this issue to completion.

E-Waste: The e-waste committee met 10/29, with several SWAC members having staff on the group.

Attendees:

Linda Dennis	Suellen Mele
Dennis Durbin	Bill Reed
Helen Fox	Bob Schille
Jan Gee	Jerry Smedes
Rob Guttridge	Cheryl Smith
Lorie Hewitt	Jody Snyder
Jeff Kelley-Clarke	Cullen Stephenson
Dean Large	Steve Wamback
Norm LeMay	Eddie Westmoreland
Brad Lovaas	